FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 JULY 1983

Lebanon

Political Developments — President Amin al-Jumayyil stopped over in Cannes for talks with Jordanian King Husayn during his flight to Washington prior to talks with President Reagan, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and other Lebanese officials left Beirut to join Al-Jumayyil's delegation, the radio noted. Earlier, in a speech to the UN Security Council broadcast by the radio, Foreign Minister Elie Salim called for a 3-month renewal of the UNIFIL mandate and said Lebanon should be treated like any other UN member-state and not as a stage for big power ideological conflict, weapons testing, or "pulse" taking. He deplored the way that both Lebanon's "friends and enemies" have claimed the right to interfere in Lebanon's Internal affairs.

Druze-Christian Clashes — Factional clashes involving heavy weapons continued in the Ash-Shuf mountain area, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. In a communique broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, the Phalangist Lebanese Forces denounced the "savage shelling" of Christian areas by fighters of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and called on the Druze community to oppose PSP leader Walid Junblatt's "negative" policy and back the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the 'Alayh-Ash-Shuf region.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat, Khalaf Remarks — "I do not want any Syrian-Palestinian war or any Libyan-Palestinian war and I am not ready to enter into tribal conflicts," PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced in a speech to PLO fighters in the YAR broadcast by San'a' Voice of Palestine radio. He warned that the "plot" is not over and that "they" want to form a new PLO. Meanwhile, in an interview with Warsaw television, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf reaffirmed his sympathy for the Fatah dissidents' demands but stressed his opposition to their methods and "total" support for 'Arafat, who has been subject to a "groundless and slanderous" campaign.

Mediation Efforts — Saudi and Algerian delegations will arrive in Damascus soon to continue mediation efforts to resolve the PLO's internal dispute and its differences with Syria, according to a Palestinian source cited by QNA. The source also noted the efforts in this regard made by a Soviet delegation led by First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Korniyenko which recently arrived in Damascus. Monitored Syrian media have not mentioned the delegation's arrival.

Syria

When President Hafiz al-Asad announced that if the Israelis withdraw from Lebanon "there will be no problems between Syria and Lebanon," he was giving the Lebanese a "highly effective Syrian card" to strengthen their struggle against Israeli occupation, Damascus radio stated in a commentary on Syrian-Lebanese relations. If certain Lebanese officials have not played this card, it is not Syria's fault, and those who signed the "agreement of submission" should realize that Syria will not help in any way "to reward aggressors and invaders," the radio added.

Meanwhile, President al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's demand for the end of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and for the achievement of Lebanese national accord during a meeting with a visiting French parliamentary delegation, Damascus television reported.

Iran

Relations With Syria — Iran supports Syria in its "rightful" policies vis-a-vis Israel and Palestine, President 'Ali Khamene'i told visiting Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar' in remarks reported by IRNA. Ash-Shar' gave Khamene'i a message from President al-Asad and briefed the Iranian president on recent developments in the region, IRNA added. Khamene'i praised Syria's "backing and protection" for the PLO, without which the PLO "could not have flourished and continued to exist," Ash-Shar' subsequently disclosed in a statement reported by Damascus radio.

Denials on Arms — The Foreign Ministry "firmly denied" rumors spread by "imperialist and Zionist" media that Iran has purchased arms from Israel, IRNA reported. In another development, South Korea also denied reports that an ROK firm is selling weapons to Iran, according to ROK YONHAP press agency.

Delegation to Saudi Arabia — A delegation led by an Islamic Guidance Ministry official left for Saudi Arabia to discuss the "difficulties" created for Iranian pilgrims, Tehran radio reported.

Antiprofiteering, Hoarding Regulations — A new directive issued by the special guilds prosecutor warned all producers, wholesalers, and retailers against hoarding and profiteering and listed the offenses that will incur punishment, Tehran radio announced. The clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio blamed the government for the economic problems, stating that the "inequitable" distribution of goods by the government leads to hoarding and profiteering. Another Free Voice of Iran broadcast stated that the government's campaign against blackmarketeers is only a "pretext" to "settle accounts" with the hojjatiyeh faction and the bazaar merchants associated with them.

OPEC Office — Iran will "decisively defend its unquestionable right" to assume the OPEC secretary generalship, although certain OPEC members have launched a propaganda campaign against Iran'sholding the post, Petroleum Minister Mohammad Gharazi stated in an interview reported by IRNA.

OPEC

The OPEC ministers meeting in Helsinki decided to maintain existing price, production, and national output quotas, AFP stated. The appointment of the new secretary general, which is disputed by Iran and Iraq, will be examined 19 July. In another development, the meeting elected UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah as OPEC chairman, WAM announced. A Libyan was elected deputy chairman, JANA stated.

Jordan

Sawt ash-Sha'b described recent Israeli reports that Jordan has issued an invitation to initiate peace negotiations with Israel as a "lie" aimed at "distorting" Jordan's position, Amman radio stated. This Israeli campaign coincides with another campaign purporting to show Jordan as a U.S. "agent and satellite," the paper added. Jordan rejects separate negotiations and will remain committed to its pan-Arab policy, the paper concluded.

Libya-Chad

Allegations by a POW held by Hissein Habre's "rebel clique" about Libyan intervention in Chad are "groundless," JANA announced.

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BAKHTAR Criticizes U.S. on Chemical Warfare Issue

LD190642 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 19 Jul 83

[Text] Kabul, July 18, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BIA writes: Reagan administration has come out with another ingenious propaganda gimmick aimed ostensibly at reviving the new universally discredited bogey on the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

According to *Newsweek* magazine the U.S. Government would now give cash rewards to anyone who can find Soviet chemical warfare equipment in Afghanistan."

The *Newsweek* story, however, reveals that this touch is used only to impart some credibility to the fabrications which the U.S. Government has already made on this account. Thus the story quotes an American official as claiming that several such samples had already been obtained.

Reagan administration's latest effort to "chemically" rearm its pychological war against the Soviet Union and Democratic Republic of Afghanistan comes at a time when its proposal for the appropriation of 130.6 million dollars for the production of chemical weapons was fiercely opposed in Senate. The results of the first vote on this bill which enables President Reagan to end the moratorium on chemical weapons production in 1984 was 49-49 and was tilted in Reagan's favor only by the vice-president's vote.

In fact the plans to manufacture binary weapons are just one component of the Reagan adminsitration's large-scale program of preparations for chemical and bacteriological warfare, which will devour some ten billion dollars in the next five years alone.

It may be pointed out that even today the Pentagon has 150,000 tons of such weapons, including three million shells, mines and bombs, stuffed with deadly chemical substances.

It is to promote its plans to finance the production of the new barbarous varieties of chemical weapons that the Reagan administration repeats the worn-out slander against the Soviet Union for allegedly continuing some chemical warfare.

The White House and Pentagon are not worried in the least by the fact that such allegations in the past have been refuted by competent international bodies. For instance a UN team of medical experts headed by Turkish doctor Brigadier Ismat, which visited Peshawar, explicitly declared that there was no proof whatever of the use of chemical weapons by the Afghan or Soviet armed forces in Afghanistan.

More recently, in the second week of April this year a representative of McPherson, stationed in Peshawar told Ian Mathews of *Canberra Times that all allegations of Western media about the* use of chemical weapons by Soviet Union in Afghanistan were untrue.

On the other hand, there is ample evidence that the USA is continuing to supply the Afghan counter-revolutionaries based in Pakistan with chemical weapons like poisonous gas bombs for use in the DRA, especially against the innocent civilian population. Poisonous gas bombs of the CS type made in USA were seized on more then one occasion from the counter-revolutionary bandits in Herat and other places in Afghanistan.

As a matter of fact, the USA which used 42 million litres of toxic substances in Vietnam, destroyig half a million hectares of forest and 360,000 hectares of farmland and affecting over two million people, is still using these weapons through its mercenaries in various countries. It is using these weapons against Nicaragua, and in El Salvador against the Farabundo Marti freedom fighters and against revolutionary Kampuchea.

Against this criminal background the Reagan administration's "concern" for imaginary Soviet chemical warfare is nothing but a deliberate attempt to hoodwink international public opinion.

Foreign Ministry Secretary Begins Middle East Trip
BK181619 Hong Kong AFP in English 1522 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] New Delhi, July 18 (AFP) — Romesh Bhandari, secretary in the Foreign Ministry, left here today on a week-long visit to the Middle East for talks on the situation there. Mr. Bhandari, who visited Syria, Libya, and Tunisia two weeks ago, this time will visit Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and will return via Beirut, an official announcement said here.

Minister Advocates Liberation of 'Occupied Kashmir'
BK180715 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has urged the people of all religions to unite to safeguard the integrity of the country. Addressing a public meeting in Patna yesterday, he said that an amicable solution to the Punjab tangle should be found as soon as possible. Affirming his loyalty to the country, Dr Abdullah said that in his opinion the occupied Kashmir should be liberated. For this, he said, he is ready to make any sacrifice.

Spokesman: No Decision Yet on Assam Boundary Wall
BK151405 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 15 Jul 83

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that no decision has been taken to build a boundary wall to seal the Indo-Bangladesh border. He was reacting to a recent press report which quoted the Assam chief minister as saying that a proposal for the construction of such a wall is awaiting the clearance of the center.

Akalis To Announce Party Program 15 August
BK161616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] The president of the Shiromani Akali Dal, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, said that the party's program for the future will be announced on the 15th of August. He was talking to newsmen in Amritsar today after a meeting of the Akali high command. The Sant, however, gave indications that the party would hold meetings throughout the state from the 1st to the 14th. He said these meetings will be useful and appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony.

Leader Says Harmony Sought
BK170913 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has said that his party has decided to maintain peace and harmony at any cost. He was talking to newsmen after 13 hours of discussions by the party high command on the situation in the state in Amritsar yesterday. He said the meeting took serious note of the incidents of violence in Punjab. He said Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims,and Christians are all brothers and all appropriate steps will be taken to maintain this relationship.

Sant Longowal appealed to the press not to sensationalize reports as they affect peace and harmony. He also disclosed that the high command of the party has decided to defer future programs till the 15th of next month. Appealing to the people of Punjab to follow the path of peace and amity, Sant Longowal said the 4th of August will be observed as prayer day. All the decisions taken in the yesterday's meeting were unanimous, he added.

AFP: Hindu Organization To Protest Sikh Demands
BK171050 Hong Kong AFP in English 1040 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] New Delhi, July 17 (AFP) — The predominantly Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today announced that it would launch a national campaign Tuesday to protest against recent killings by Sikh extremists and expose "the secessionist designs" of the Sikh Akali Dal Party. The announcement came the day after an Akali decision to postpone for one month the next phase of its 21-month-old campaign in Junjab State to press religious and political demands, observers here said.

BJP Secretary Krishanlal Sharms said that the situation in Punjab had assumed "explosive proportions," and that "it was imperative that the nation be apprised of this," PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. BJP units across India were being asked to hold ralles in state capitals, districts and important towns on July 19, to be observed as 'Punjab Day,' Mr. Sharma said. He also accused Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's ruling Congress Party of aggravating the Punjab situation for its own "narrow political ends," but he did not elaborate. The BJP, he said, opposed the claim of Sikhs being a separate nation.

The mass-circulation daily *The Hindustan Times* said today that the Akali campaign in Punjab had been "designedly made into an emotional orgy that endeavours to distract attention from the real issues involved."

In an unusual editorial, written in response to charges that the paper had been biased against Sikhs in general and Akalis in particular, *The Hindustan Times* said the accusations were part of an "unfortunate effort to portray the situation in Punjab not as a political dispute between the Akalis and the government but as a grievous rift between the Sikhs and the rest." "We are second to none in our appreciation of the vigour, industry, enterprise and patriotism of the Sikh community," the paper said, adding that "we have no quarrel with the Sikh community which we hold in high esteem." "Our disillusionment is with the policies and practices of the Akali Dal and particularly its militant wing," who are "being unreasonable in their sectarian demands which do not take the national interest into account," the paper said.

Referring to Akali demands for a fair share of the river waters passing through Punjab state and for a redemarcation of the state's boundary to bring in neighboring Sikh-dominated areas, the paper wrote that it was "the height of shortsightedness not to realize that others might have equally strong feelings about what they feel belongs to them."

The editorial concluded by saying that "when clouds of disquiet and uncertainty spread over Punjab, when there is a nagging sense of unease in every mind, when the state is being torn apart by violence and needless communal strife, it is no time for political cliches, it is a time to call a spade a spade." "If in the process we have called the spade a bloody shovel, that merely reflects the gravity of the situation and our sense of apprehension, it does not reflect any bias on our part against the Sikhs," the paper wrote, concluding with the Sikh salutation "sat sri akal."

Inquiry Ordered Into Maharashtra Police Firing

BK171604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] In Maharashtra, the situation in Amravati city and its neighboring areas is well under control. No untoward incidenthas been reported since last evening. About 41 people have been arrested in connection with yesterday's incident. A magisterial inquiry has been ordered into the police firing.

Andhra Pradesh Strike Situation 'Peaceful'

BK181640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh information minister, Mr (Ram Jogia), has said that the strike by the state government employees was peaceful today and no untoward incident has been reported. He told newsmen in Hyderabad this evening that attendance in many of the offices was poor. The absenteism in several districts was between 85 to 90 percent. The minister said two people have been arrested in Guntur District. The leader of the striking employees, Mr (B. Poona Chandra Rao), however, claimed that as many as 99 percent of the nongazetted (?employees) in the state participated in the strike. A large section of the employees of the high court also joined the strike from today.

Ziaul Haq Interview With Japanese Daily Cited

BK160915 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq leaves Islamabad this morning for Tokyo on a week-long state visit to Pakistan. He will make an overnight stopover in Shanghai. In an interview with a Japanese daily, he said he believed that his visit to Japan will pave the way for wider cooperation in the fields of economy, technology, and culture. He described relations between Pakistan and Japan as ideal. Politically, he said, the two countries have no differences — none whatsoever. The two countries have a similar stand on major problems like Afghanistan. Pakistan has total political and diplomatic backing from Japan. Economically, he was proud to say, Japan was one of the largest donors of aid to Pakistan.

The president said Japan was the second largest source of Pakistan's import goods. Pakistan's exports to Japan were increasing and there was a trade turnover of $1 billion between the two countries.

The president said Pakistan's cultural relations with Japan were extremely good and recently many Japanese tourists visited Pakistan to see ancient civilization in Gandhara. He expressed the hope that the existing relations will be futher promoted.

Answering a question, the president said the fundamental principles of Pakistan's foreign policy include the continued strengthening of relations with China, establishing peaceful and close relations with India and other neighboring states,and promoting close cooperation with Islamic countries. About relations with India, he said India and Pakistan should live in peace and both should have a friendly attitude toward each other. Pakistan had taken initiatives in this respect and felt that there had been a good response from India in this connection. Pakistan had set up a joint commission with India and had offered a no-war pact to India which is still under consideration. He expressed hopes that the pact would be concluded.

About Afghanistan, President General Mohamnad Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan was trying to find a political solution to this issue and Pakistani efforts in this regard had been appreciated. He said the Soviet Union must withdraw from Afghanistan so that the Afghan refugees can return to their homes with dignity and honor. There should be no interference in Afghanistan and its status as a nonaligned Muslim country should be restored. It should be up to the people of Afghanistan to find the form of government that they want. The president said the main problem was the existence of 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The sooner they return to their homes, the better it will be.

The president described as incorrect reports that Pakistan was making an atom bomb. He said rumours to this effect were aimed at defaming Pakistan. He also denied that Pakistan was about to conduct an explosion. He said there is no such thing as a peaceful explosion — an explosion is an explosion.

The president said Pakistan's nuclear program was entirely based on indigenous efforts and nobody was helping us in this connection. Practically everyone has been creating obstacles in our way to acquire this technology, even though our nuclear program is totally for peaceful purpose.

Answering a question about Pakistan's economy, the president said the country's economy had imporved. Pakistan's performance among developing countries was very good. We have achieved great success in agriculture and our efforts in the industrial sector have also been encouraging. Imports have been reduced and exports have increased.

Cultural Cooperation Agreement With USSR Signed

BK181636 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] Pakistan and the Soviet Union signed a 2-year agreement in Islamabad today for the promotion of cultural and scientific cooperation. Under the agreement, the two countries will exchange artists, scientists, experts in higher education and museums, and groups of sportsmen. Both countries also have agreed to continue the implementation of the agreement on cooperation in radio broadcasting and television. Both countries also will promote the exchange of sports teams, sportsmen, coaches, and physical training and sports instructors.

Political Leaders Criticize Government, MRD

Jama'at-i-Islami Head

GF181640 Karachi Dawn in English 17 Jul 83 p 10

[Text] Peshawar, July 15 — Qazi Husain Ahmed, secretary-general of defunct Jamaat-i-Islami, has said the kind of leadership that we have "cannot lead the people to their destination, nor are the rulers sincere in their purpose."

In a bitter attack on the government and the MRD he termed the proposed August 14 announcement a "hoax" and said the MRD's plan to launch a movement for restoration of democracy was yet another attempt to misguide the nation.

Addressing a large gathering of Jamaat workers at an Eid Milan ['Id reunion] party, arranged by Idara-i-Farogh-i-Islam [Association for Glorification of Islam], at a local hotel, he said six years were enough to know the type of persons now ruling Pakistan. "They have not enforced Islam in six years, because they are wavering nor are they sincere in their expressed resolve."

Referring to the three committees constituted to decide about the system of government in the country, the defunct Jamaat leader said "while a non-Muslim Qadiani had been appointed as an adviser for this purpose, ulema were also being dragged in the mesh with a view to lower them in people's estimation."

He severely criticised Pakistan's interest-oriented economy as well as supremacy of martial law over shariah, saying that Islamic and Koranic laws had been made subservient to military laws despite professions of Islam by the regime.

He pointed out that under Koranic law no military general can be allowed to command more respect than the commonest of citizens in a Muslim state.

Qazi Husain Ahmed, also criticised the MRD, saying that their proposed move to launch a struggle was a conspiracy hatched by the rulers and big landlords to play with the sentiments of the people. He said those in the MRD had already been tried by the nation and they had proved unworthy of power. He regretted that MRD had selected the auspicious day of August 14 for launching the movement and claimed it had been done at the instance of others. This, however, does not mean that there should be no movement. We believe such a movement is necessary, but its leadership must be in the hands of God-fearing people, in order to make it gainful. The defunct Jamaat-i-Islami might invite Islam-loving parties, like JUP [Jamiatul-Ulema-i-Pakistan], JUI [Jamiatul-Ulema-i-Islam], and Muslim League to join hands.

Muslim League Chief

GF181632 Karachi Dawn in English 17 Jul 83 p 10

[Text] Sukkur, July 15 — Pir Sahib Pagara, chief of the defunct Pakistan Muslim League, said at Pir Jo Goth on Thursday that the black day should be an eye opener for the MRD leaders as it showed how many people supported them.

Pir Sahib was talking to delegation of Muslim Leaguers from Sukkur led by Seth Afzal Dar.

Pir Sabib said if the new constitutional framework, expected to be announced by Aug 14 did not provide for restoration of fundamental rights, clear-cut election programme and formation of a political government, then, as Mr Akbar Bugti has pointed out, it would be mere structure.

He observed that the present government was creating one issue after the other to divert the attention of the people and thus prolong its own rule.

Pir Sahib said the country needed a political democratic government and therefore, there must be general elections and an end of martial law.

He said the local bodies elections would be held on non-party basis. The party had issued directives to the PML [Pakistan Muslim League] workers to take part in these elections with full force.

Three Killed in Explosion in Karachi 18 July

BK190619 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 Jul 83

[Text] Three people were killed and five others injured in an explosion in a house in Karachi yesterday. The cause of the explosion is yet to be known.

BANGLADESH

Doha Describes Tehran Visit as 'Highly Satisfactory'

BK180639 Dhaka BSS in English 0612 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] Dhaka, July 18 (BSS) — Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha returned here yesterday concluding his three-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Describing the visit as "highly satisfactory," Doha told newsmen on return that he had discussions with the Iranian leaders on ways and means on setting up a joint commission between the two countries. This matter is expected to be finalised during the forthcoming visit of the Iranian foreign minister to Bangladesh.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq war, Mr. Doha said he was "impressed by their (Iranian) sense of conviction" and added, despite the war Tehran was making economic recovery. Replying to a question, the Bangladesh foreign minister said culmination of the war "largely depends on Iran."

Expressing his satisfaction at the warm welcome he received in Iran, Mr Doha said "we should avail ourselves of this opportunity to expand our economic cooperation" with Tehran.

Rivers Commission Talks With India Begin 18 July

BK181648 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] The 25th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission began in Dhaka today. The 4-day session is expected to discuss the augmentation of the Ganges waters, sharing of the Tista waters and the problem of border rivers between India and Bangladesh.

The Indian delegation is led by the irrigation minister, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha. The agriculture minister of Bangladesh, Mr Obaidullah Khan, is heading his country's 13-member team.

Mr Mirdha told newsmen after today's deliberations that he has put new proposals for consideration. The All India Radio Dhaka correspondent Sougata Ghosh reports that the two delegations have split into several groups for informal consultations. Talks will be resumed tomorrow.

SRI LANKA

Delhi: Censorship Imposed After Student Unrest

BK181609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government today used its emergency powers to impose censorship on news after student unrest forced the closure of (?a) university. The Information Department in Colombo said all news stories dealing universities [as heard], polytechnic, and other post secondary educational institutions would be censored, including those by foreign correspondents.

Prime Minister Discusses Antiterrorism Policy

BK181218 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] Prime Minister Premadasa said that the government was in a position to wipe out the terrorist movement which was demanding a division of the country; but he added that it will take a humane approach to the problem.

Addressing a meeting yesterday, Mr Premadasa pointed out that it was not the practice of the government to punish the common people for offenses committed by few individuals. Mr Premadasa made it clear that no people in a divided country had ever lived peacefully. Divided countries such as India, Korea, Vietnam, and Germany were clear examples. There had been bloodshed in India where certain sections were trying to divide the country. The prime minister pointed out that Sri Lanka had been able to protect its territorial integrity because of the farsighted policies adopted by the late D.S. Senanayake. Those who demand a separate state would have to repent later, he said.

Briefs

Development Loan — A loan for approximately 404 million rupees has been negotiated with the Asian Development Bank in Manila by the Ministries of Finance and Planning and Fisheries. This loan will support a project which aims to increase inland fish production for domestic consumption, establish the basis for shrimp culture as a means of earning foreign exchange, and strengthen the institutional infrastructure for the future development of aquaculture in Sri Lanka. [Excerpt] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Jul 83 BK]

Council of Experts Elects Second Deputy Chairman

LD182215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The Council of Experts held a session at 1600 today. During this session, which was chaired by Ayatollah Meshkini, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rabbani-Amlashi was elected second deputy chairman, with 43 votes.

President Khamene'i Meets With Syrian Adviser

LD181133 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 18 (IRNA) — "Iran supports Syria and Mr Hafiz al-Asad and other decision-makers in Syria for announcement of their rightful policies vis-a-vis Israel and Palestine", said President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i today.

The president who was speaking in a meeting with the advisor to the Syrian foreign minister Faruq ash-Shar', said that surely the faithful elements in the region will back Syria and that the Iranian nation and Government would remain by Syria in its gallant positions.

While stressing on the necessity of unity among forces believing in fighting the Zionist regime, the president said that a serious struggle must be launched against the Zionist regime and that Iran would suggest and emphasize on a greater unity among the Steadfastness Front countries and those governments believing in such a struggle.

In the meeting today, Ash-Shar' submitted to President Khamene'i the message of President Hafiz al-Asad, and then provided him with a detailed report on recent developments of the region specially the U.S. plots and those of the Zionist regime in Lebanon and the position of the Syrian Government.

The meeting today was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi and the Syrian ambassador to Tehran, Ibrahim al-Yunis.

Foreign Ministry Denies Arms Purchased From Israel

LD181717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] Simultaneous with the glorious ceremonies on the International Jerusalem Day throughout the world and the inauguration of the Council of Experts, that last pillar of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, imperialist and Zionist media once again revived the old and (?discredited) rumors of the purchase of arms from the regime occupying Jerusalem by Iran, and broadcast it through their propaganda loudspeakers.

Concerning this, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said the falsehood of the rumor of the purchase of arms from the Zionist regime by the Islamic Republic of Iran is clear to everyone. However,the enemies of Islam and the Islamic Revolution, to place obstacles, as it were, in the path of the powerful movement of the Islamic Revolution in the region, which promises the death and doom of Zionism, and to divert the thoughts of the people of the world, especially the Muslims, broadcast this rotten rumor in various forms at sensitive times.

He added: As before, we declare that the Islamic Republic of Iran considers U.S. imperialism and its agent in the region, that is, the regime occupying Jerusalem, as its No 1 enemy and wants the unity of the Islamic nation and the world oppressed to annihilate these germs of corruption and the occupiers of the first kiblah of the world Muslims.

Commentary Examines OPEC Secretary Generalship

LD182353 Tehran IRNA in English 1948 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — The voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Tehran radio) said in a commentary this morning that a retrospect glimpse at the status of the oil exporting countries during the past three decades would reveal a weakening of the imperialist countries against a gradual coming to power of the Third World nations. It said also that while certain (OPEC) members have launched a propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic in a bid to omit Iran's turn for assuming the secretary-generalship of OPEC for the next two years, the country's oil minister has said in a recent interview that he would defend "decisively Iran's unquestionable right to nominate a committed representative" in order to function as the secretary general of the organisation for the next two years. Excerpts:

"As the Islamic revolution gained momentum and approached its culimination, it also upturned the global balance of the oil market economically and politically against the interest of the capitalist system. 'Economically' because an incomplete turnover of oil revenues to imperialist governments and oil companies has served to pinch their commercial balance. Despite extensive purchases and liberal expenditure of oil revenues by certain dependent members of the OPEC, the volume of surplus oil revenues has gradually increased.

"The continued economic slump in the Western countries coupled with an eventual increase in oil prices which was prompted by the Islamic revolution in Iran, aggravated the situation for the imperialist governments. The assumption by OPEC of the task of price controlling was the principal preoccupation of the world imperialism. Iran's surging role as a political leader within the organisation and its turning of the table over in the organisation in the interest of the populist front within the OPEC served to project the organisation as capable of fulfilling a progressive function in the Third World and against the inhumane interests of the world imperialism....

"The Western capitalism is immensely dependent on oil. In an article published during his office the former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig candidly confessed to the fact and described the Islamic revolution in Iran as an awakening blow to the West. Haig's analysis which was published one year after the culiminatin of the Islamic revolution in Iran signals the increasing uneasiness of the imperialist governments, as well as the oil companies and the military officials in those countries who

have placed much emphasis on the need to adopt basic and immediate measures in order to cope with the new situation of the oil market...

"In 1979 the group of seven industrialised countries of the world decided in their meeting in Japan to reverse the balance...The Saudi Government which has been a most docile agent of the world imperialism was picked to engineer the conspiracy upon the OPEC. The Saudis agreed to let their oil flow to the imperialist countries in order to glut the oil market....

"Once the oil market had been rigged by the Saudis by a glutting the non-aligned members of the organisation and especially the progressive and revolutionary members came under external as well as internal pressure for cutting oil prices. The world imperialism tried hard to single out the Islamic Republic of Iran as having been responsible for the oil market imbalance and reduced prices. In other words the world imperialism accused Iran of having done precisely that which had been committed by the Saudis. The accusations against Iran were proved unjustified in the wake of exposes published by Iran.

"In London's session, despite the opposition of Iran's delegation the oil prime rate fell to 29 dollars per barrel. During the past four months, however, the oil market has remained relatively stable...

"According to the statutes of the organisation a representative from a member country is selected biennially for a two year tenture in the capacity of the organisation's secretary general. According to the regulations, this year the organisation's secretary general must be from Iran. Last year, secretive insinuations were made against Iran's nomination of its representative. Iran's oil minister said in a recent interview that he would decisively defend Iran's unquestionable right for assuming the secretary generalship of the conference."

Delegation Departs for Saudi Talks on Pilgrims
LD181334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] The Islamic Guidance Ministry under secretary for international affairs left yesterday for Saudi Arabia at the head of a delegation comprising representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Islamic Guidance Ministry, and the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization.

Our correspondent reports that the delegation is to convey to Saudi officials the views and the attitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the difficulties created for the Iranian hajj pilgrims' trip to Saudi Arabia, and also the obstacles relating to the preparations for the transfer and housing of approximately 100,000 Iranian pilgrims.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by the Islamic guidance minister and a Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Foreign Affairs Minister Welcomes India's Rao 18 July
LD181741 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Narasimha Rao, India's minister of external affairs, arrived in Tehran this afternoon at the head of an economic-political delegation. He was welcomed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati, the Indian ambassador in Iran, and a number of officials from the Iranian and Indian Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

During this trip, the Indian minister of external affairs will have meetings and discussions with high ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On arrival the Indian minister of external affairs told reporters: My aim during this trip is to strengthen relations between Iran and India. I have very much looked forward to this trip and I think that Iran and India can have good cooperation with one another in many fields, especially in economic fields. Mr Rao also said: I am bearing the best wishes of the Indian prime minister and Indian people for the esteemed leaders of Iran and the people of your country. I hope that we will achieve positive results at the end of our discussions.

Mr Velayati, concerning the visit of the Indian minister of external affairs to Iran told our correspondent; In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. His excellency Mr Rao, the esteemed minister of external affairs of India, and the esteemed delegation accompanying him is visiting Iran at my invitation and, in fact, he is returning the visit I paid to Delhi during the past year. This visit is aimed at expanding bilateral relations in political, commercial, economic, industrial, and cultural fields between Iran and India. One of the important points that we will follow during this visit is the formation of a joint commission between Iran and India and we will have discussions concerning all the various aspects of relations and the expansion of relations between Iran and India. In view of a long history ofcultural and religious relations between Iran and India,we hope that each day our relations with India will expand further.

Commerce Minister Discusses Trade With Syrian Official
LD161234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] Muhammad Taha Bali, under secretary at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign trade of the Syrian Arab Republic, met this morning with our country's commerce minister, 'Asgar-Owladi.They discussed various issues concerning trade relations between the two countries and reviewed issues related to the opening of an exhibition in Tehran in the month of Mordad [23 July to 22 August]exclusively for goods made in Syria. A number of industrialists and experts from Syrian state and private firms are now in Tehran preparing the preliminaries for the opening of this exhibition.

The Syrian under secretary at the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade also met this morning with the head under secretary at the Ministry of Economy and Financial Affairs for a discussion on expanding economic relations between the two countries and grounds for further coordination.

Reportage on Bangladesh Foreign Minister's Visit

Meeting With Musavi

LD160538 Tehran IRNA in English 1954 GMT 15 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — The Bangladeshi foreign minister, Shamsud Doha, and his entourage met and conferred with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi today.

During the meeting in which Foreign Minister Velayati was also present, the plots of imperialism, expansion of the unity of the Muslims in the region, the "neither West nor East" policy and the political economic relations between the two countries were discussed.

The Bangladeshi minister arrived here Thursday for a 3-day visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart. Mr Shamsud Doha has so far held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati and Minister of Commerce Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman.

Joint Communique Issued

LD161846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] Following the trip to our country by the Bangladesh minister of foreign affairs, Shamsud Doha, and his talks with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a joint communique on the outcome of the visit was released this afternoon simultaneously in Tehran and Dhaka:

On the invitation of Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Shamsud Doha, minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid an official visit to Iran from 14 to 16 July 1983. Mr Shamsud Doha and his entourage were warmly received, which shows the existence of fraternal relations between Iran and Bangladesh.

During this trip, the minister of foreign affairs of Bangladesh met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Mir-Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i, prime minister; and other high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The minister of foreign affairs of Bangladesh also had two rounds of talks with Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, and had similar negotiations with Dr Hoseyn Namazi, minister of financial and economic affairs; Mr 'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman, minister of commerce; and Dr 'Abbas Honarlu, under secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum.

The ministers of foreign affairs of Bangladesh and Iran, assisted by their corresponding delegations and in an atmosphere of understanding and fraternity, broadly discussed and debated international issues and issues of interest to both sides, including those connected with the world of Islam. Both sides referred to the deep religious, cultural, and historical relations between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Bangladesh and took pleasure in pointing out that expansion of bilateral relations would be on the basis of interests and Islamic inheritance. Both sides expressed the desire that existing cooperation between the two countries in various fields should be strengthened and expanded by further contacts and exchanges of representative delegations of various levels.

Both sides once again stressed their commitment to the unity of the Islamic nation and strongly expressed their wish that all occupied Arab and Muslim lands be freed from the domination of Zionists. They also strongly stressed that a real solution to this important issue lies in returning all the lands of the Palestinians represented by the PLO and also resumption of Islamic rule over the noble Al-Quds and the land of Palestine.

Both sides expressed concern over the present circumstances in Afghanistan and stressed the need for the immediate withdrawal of all aggressive and occupying forces from that country so that the Muslim people of Afghanistan can determine their destiny.

Both sides stressed their commitment to principles of nonalignment by mutual respect for national sovereignty, noninterference in the internal affairs of countries, nonrecourse to force and peaceful solution to all conflicts.

Both sides strongly emphasized that the Indian Ocean should be announced as a peaceful region and should stay out of all international rivalries. In studying the international economic situation, both sides stressed the importance of speedy growth in developing countries and the need for real cooperation between them.

Considering the fact that fraternal love links the two countries and their need to clearly express the common views inspired by Islam, both sides expressed interest that in the next visit of the minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Dhaka, a draft of an agreement about forming a joint commission should be signed.

Mr Shamsud Doha informed Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the general situation in South Asia and initiatives taken by Bangladesh in improving its relations with neighboring countries. In this connection, he also explained about the progress made in forming an assembly of seven South Asian countries. The minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran thanked Bangladesh for its constructive efforts in this connection. Dr Shamsud Doha expressed his deep gratitude for the warm and sincere reception extended to him and those accompanying him during this visit by Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs,and the government and the brother nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The minister of foreign affairs of Bangladesh invited Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati to pay an official visit to Bangladesh. This invitation was accepted with pleasure.

16 July Departure

LD161054 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 16 IRNA — The foreign minister of Bangladesh, Shamsud Doha, left Tehran this morning following a two-day visit and talks with the high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran including the president, the prime minister and foreign affairs minister.

During the visit a joint communique was signed by the foreign ministers of Bangladesh and Iran in economic, political and cultural fields.

The Bangladesh foreign minister speaking to reporters prior to his departure expressed his satisfaction with the visit and added that he has been impressed both by the Islamic Revolution of Iran and leader of the revolution. He also hoped that he would be able to visit Iran again.

The Iranian foreign affairs minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati who was at the airport along with other officials of the ministry to see his Bangladesh counterpart off, said that although the visit was brief, it was useful in expansion of mutual relations. He further added that it was decided that such meetings should be repeated.

In a meeting last Friday night both the foreign ministers agreed they will sign a draft of an agreement for the formation of a joint commission for cultural, economic, scientific and technical cooperatiion, during Dr. Velayati's future visit to Bangladesh.

Dr. Velayati has accepted an official invitation of the foreign minister of Bangladesh. He told reporters that he hoped that he would be able to visit Bangladesh in the near future with the objective of further development of mutual relations.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,380

LD181716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Communique No 1,380 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday the forces of Islam continued to fortify their defensive positions on the southern fronts. They controlled all the enemy's movements by opening fire on their positions. Our fighters discovered a number of enemy patrol groups in Faqih, Farhani, Pichangizeh, Zubaydat, and Chalamcheh. Our forces' fire forced the enemy forces to flee after suffering casualties.

Fire continued to be exchanged in the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational zones. Our forces targeted enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi personnel and destroying 3 trucks, a 106-mm gun, and 10 foxholes and slit trenches belonging to the aggressive forces.

Yesterday fire continued to be exchanged on the Ilam, Qasr-e Shirin, and Bakhtaran border fronts. Our forces brought enemy positions on these fronts under fire, silencing Iraqi heavy weapons fire. Enemy patrol groups' movements in the region opposite Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran were neutralized by the vigilance of the forces of Islam.

Yesterday three residential homes in Abadan were damaged by enemy long-range weapons fire.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

New Regulations Issued Against Hoarders, Profiteers

LD181652 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] The special guilds prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution office in Tehran has issued a new directive to all producers, wholesalers, and retailers as follows.

In order to guard the existence of Islam and Muslims, and in keeping with government plans, and in order to fight and confront hoarders and profiteers, and to prevent any disruption to the country's economic system by counterrevolutionary, opportunist, and profiteer elements, all producers and sellers including those companies which produce, import, and distribute goods or provide services, also shops, trading companies, and individuals hereby are informed that selling goods without issuing a bill of sale is an offense and sellers are dutybound to present the buyer with one copy of the bill of sale while entering the second copy in their ledgers, to be kept in the shop, to be presented later to organizations and institutions including inspectors of the office of the Islamic Revolution prosecutor in charge of guilds affairs.

Also, the receipt of sums of money from buyers, over the amount indicated on the bill of sale, will result in legal action and punishment. Plaintiffs can inform the special Islamic Revolution prosecutor's office in charge of guilds affairs of their complains in order to restore their rights.

Selling or supplying goods should take place on the basis of the prices approved by the authorized organizations of the country. In view of the fact that all goods and raw materials are imported by the government and at government rates and then put at the disposal of authorized producers and distributors, any profiteering and violation of official prices on the pretext that the goods or raw materials have been obtained from free market will result in heavy and multiple penalties. On the other hand, all sellers are dutybound to keep documents and bills of sale of the goods they have available, indicating the price, quantity, and the address of the original seller, and to present them to court inspectors. Failing to present ledgers or failing to register deals that have been completed are considered offenses. Also, hoarding and failing to supply goods to consumers on time and failing to abide laws and regulations dealing with the distribution of goods will result in the application of the maximum penalty provided by law.

In the statement of the special Islamic Revolution prosecutor's office in charge of guilds affairs, it is stressed that holding on to goods over the set quota or the amount needed and for more than a reasonable length of time will be considered hoarding. The length of time, according to the nature of goods, is set at 1 to 3

months for household goods, 1 to 4 months for the raw material used by factories, 1 day to 30 days for goods used by shopowners, wholesalers, and retailers. [as heard] The discovery of goods over and above the amount needed for normal use by individuals or companies — if the goods are not related to the trading license held by those companies — will be considered as hoarding. The special office of the Islamic Revolution prosecutor in charge of guilds affairs will, from now on, announce the name, family name, and a detailed description of the company in the media and on the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran while offenders' trials are in progress in order to expose the counterrevolutionary and inhuman faces of hoarders and profiteers.

All the traders, sellers, and companies who are working hard for the benefit of the country and the revolution, are asked to follow all the said regulations and help this office in discovering these dens of corruption and in fighting and confronting hoarders and profiteers.

Prime Minister Describes 17 July Cabinet Session
LD171251 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Excerpts] The current affairs of the country and the latest developments in the region and the world were discussed at today's session of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

At the end of today's Cabinet session, the prime minister answered questions from our correspondent about the issues raised at this session:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, would you please tell us what issues and projects were discussed at today's session of the Cabinet?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At this session, as usual, we had talks on the world situation and also domestic affairs. Some of our brother ministers who had traveled to different parts of the country reported to the Cabinet and there was a supervisory report by the Plan and Budget Organization, from Mr Banki about the development projects in 1361 [March 1982-March 1983]. I will read you some of the statistics he gave us. In 1361, we had 644 plans which totalled 6,175 projects. Of these, 791 projects have been completed and about 3,298 projects have progressed according to schedule. The rest (?have faced some difficulties).

The Afghan issue was raised. I should elaborate. The Interior Ministry followed a plan through the Afghan Council, as you are aware, which included issuing identification cards to Afghans. This has had many good results especially in cases in which opportunists and others attempted to ruin the reputation of our Afghan brothers by their crimes. Some (?felony and crimes) have since been greatly reduced. That is because [words indistinct]. This has obviously helped toward a greater understanding with our Afghan brothers. This plan has proved successful and it was decided that the Interior Ministry should follow this plan decisively.

Another point which was not raised at the Cabinet session but is the latest decision made by the Economic Council in the presence of his excellency the president, the honorable speaker of the Majlis and the president of the Supreme court, regards rice. I would like to announce this decision here since rice production will be affected by these decisions. That is to say, all the operations involving the sale and distribution of rice will in future be controlled by the government. [end recording]

Our correspondant reports that the prime minister also commented on the activities of the Supreme Agricultural Council and said: Up to now there has been no opportunity to study the problems of agriculture in a coordinated and uniform manner and this council has not yet been able to coordinate the activities of organizations and institutions that work with agriculture.

Commenting on the recent attack by the Lebanese Army on the Muslim people of Lebanon, Mr Musavi said: Phalangists have always been the internal military arm of the United states and Israel in Lebanon and the recent move by the Lebanese Army is aimed at strengthening the Zionist and imperialist objectives in Lebanon. The Prime minister added: At present, there is a new element in the Lebanese political scene and that is the awareness of the Muslim people of Lebanon in their confrontations with Zionist aggressors. It is hoped that this resistance factor will prepare the ground for the victory of the Lebanese people.

Prime Minister Talks With Pakistan Ambassador
BK180136 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Jul 83

[Text] The Iranian prime minister, Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, says Iran attaches special importance to its relations with Pakistan and both countries have an identity of views on various issues, as well as common problems such as Afghanistan.

At a meeting with the Pakistan ambassador to Iran, Mr Abdul Malik Khattak, he said the Iranian Government is considering a scheme to extend rail and road links up to the Pakistan border. He also emphasized that bilateral economic relations and coordination between the two countries should increase to their mutual benefit. The Iranian prime minister added that his government would like to consider construction of commercial ships from the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works.

The Pakistan ambassador at the meeting suggested that the two countries should enter into more joint ventures.

Khomeyni Receives Musavi, Khorasan Representative
GF181900 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Jul 83

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi who reported on current issues in the country. The imam also received Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabassi, representative of the imam and caretaker of Imam Reza holy shrine in

Khorasan. Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabassi reported on the situation in Khorasan and the preservation of the holy shrine.

Radio Iran Reports Shouts of 'Death to Khomeyni'
GF121546 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 12 Jul 83

[Text] Eyewitnesses in Tehran have reported that while families of martyrs were in Tehran's railway station some days ago to receive the bodies of their relatives, they began a demonstration and chanted death to Khomeyni. They received the bodies of their dear ones killed in the battlefronts.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Soviet, Karmal Troops
GF161655 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 16 Jul 83

[Text] Zahedan, July 16, IRNA — The Afghan mujahideen in their repeated attacks on the Soviet occupation forces and the Afghan Government troops last week while killing and wounding a number of them captured 62 light weapons, one artillery piece and over 70,000 cartridges from these forces.

IRNA quoting informed sources further added that these encounters took place in various districts of Herat Province. The Afghan mujahideen after accomplishing their mission returned safely to their bases.